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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,494	12/13/2000	Nikolich Zugich	MSK.P-042	2225

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EXAMINER

DIBRINO, MARIANNE NMN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,494

Applicant(s)

Zuglich et al.

Examiner

Marianne DiBrino

Art Unit

1644



— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Please Note:** In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-308-4315. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Paula Hutzell, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at Paula.Hutzell@uspto.gov or 703-308-4310. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

I. Claims 1-4, 9 and 11-16, drawn to a method for inducing a cellular response to a non-immunogenic or weakly immunogenic peptide expressed by tumor cells of a mammalian subject comprising administering a heteroclitic MHC class I binding peptide.

II. Claims 1-4 and 10, drawn to a method for inducing a cellular response to a non-immunogenic or weakly immunogenic peptide expressed by tumor cells of a mammalian subject comprising administering a heteroclitic MHC class II binding peptide.

III. Claims 5-8, drawn to a method for inducing a cellular response to a non-immunogenic or weakly immunogenic peptide expressed by tumor cells of a mammalian subject comprising administering a nucleic acid encoding a heteroclitic MHC class I binding peptide.

IV. Claims 17-20 and 22-26, drawn to a method for preparing a vaccine comprising a heteroclitic MHC class I binding peptide.

V. Claims Claims 17-19 and 21, drawn to a method for preparing a vaccine comprising a heteroclitic MHC class II binding peptide.

VI. Claims 27-29 and 32-33, drawn to a therapeutic immunogen and vaccine composition thereof comprising a heteroclitic MHC class I binding peptide.

VII. Claims 27, 28, 30 and 32-33, drawn to a therapeutic immunogen and vaccine composition thereof comprising a heteroclitic MHC class II binding peptide.

VIII. Claims 31 and 32-33, drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a therapeutic immunogen comprising a heteroclitic MHC class I binding peptide, and vaccine composition thereof.

IX. Claims 31 and 32-33, drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a therapeutic immunogen comprising a heteroclitic MHC class II binding peptide, and vaccine composition thereof.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-IX do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Claims 1 and 27 of the instant application does not provide a technical feature that is distinguished over the prior art, as evidenced by Bakker et al (Applicant's IDS reference, Int. J. Cancer, Vol. 70, 32-309, 1997). Bakker et al teach an immunogenic class I MHC-binding peptide derived from a weakly immunogenic target peptide, which binds the MHC class I molecule with higher affinity than the said target peptide, i.e., heteroclitic peptide. Bakker et al further teach a method for inducing a cellular immune response using the said heteroclitic peptide.

Therefore, because the said claims do not provide a special technical feature, the instant invention lacks an inventive step and therefore lacks Unity of Invention.

4. Irrespective of whichever group Applicant may elect, Applicant is further required to (1) elect a single disclosed species (a specific SEQ ID NO, for example, SEQ ID NO: 12, i.e., a peptide immunogen in Inventions VI or VII, or the peptide encoded for by the nucleic acid of Inventions VIII or IX, or the peptide or nucleic acid encoding the said peptide to be used in the methods of Inventions I-V) to which claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable and (2) to list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added. It is requested that Applicant disclose which protein the target peptide is selected from.

These species are distinct because their structures are different.

5. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

6. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

7. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added

after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.
M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

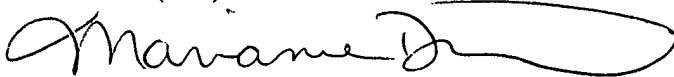
8. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

9. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

10. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne DiBrino whose telephone number is (703) 308-0061. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-3014.



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September 30, 2002



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